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RRR000897

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Public hearings have not been well attended, statements mostly in favor of the plan to put all of the nuclear waste in the country in this one sacred place. Activists were told that if we do not go on record with a statement, we will have no legal recourse later on. Local papers & media spin have recently stated that opposition to the nuke dump had dropped off since the passing of Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone spiritual teacher who dedicated his life to protecting Mother Earth, bringing people together, and stopping all nuclear contamination. The nuclear reps are confident to the point of acting like it's a done deal. WE KNOW THIS IS NOT TRUE! LETS PROVE THEM WRONG. MAKE YOUR COMMENT NOW & TAKE ACTION!! Yucca Mountain has been and continues to be a sacred and beloved site for thousands of years to the Native Shoshone tribes. It is an herb gathering site, for rituals, and as a part of their stories. Yucca Mountain is known in Shoshone language as Snake Mountain. It is said that the snake was headed north when it froze where it is. Further more it is said that it will move again and "flip around". Geologists say that there are thirteen different fault lines running through it. Using the Yucca Mountain site to 'dispose' of nuclear waste is a very risky and therefore an unexceptable choice as a nuclear waste repository. There are serious risks associated with the 'disposing' and transportation of nuclear waste. One of the most deadly waste materials on earth, nuclear waste should be stored onsite, in retrievable casks, and not transported across the country. There is an extremely high liklihood that there will be adverse impacts to the drinking water supply, impacts from truck transport of nuclear waste, socio-economic impacts, impacts to cultural resources, and environmental justice issues.

A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain is illegal and in violation of human rights. There is ongoing litigation involving the United States' violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the Western Shoshone which clearly defines territorial borders for their nation of Newe Sogobia as well outside the proposed land withdrawal. This treaty was fully ratified by Congress, and is legally "the supreme law of the land". In April of 2004, the United Nation's Committee to End Racial Discrimination upheld the Shoshone claim in a record decision, and their declaration clearly identifies the Yucca Mountain Repository as one of several ongoing serious human rights violations by the United States against the Western Shoshone Nation. Corbin Harney condemned the government's actions, particularly the Department of Energy saying, "It is with blatant disrespect that the DOE continues to violate our Mother Earth as well as disregard the Treaty of Ruby Valley." The truth "from the beginning," he once said, is that "the people are going to have to wake up to the problem and get a cleaner source of power, wind or solar, that doesn't have waste.

"The eyes of the elders are on us. The fate of the unborn is rolling toward the cliff, the voice of Corbin Harney is ringing in my ears, "It's on your shoulders now...]

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